THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): As on 31.3.2002, 4.24 lakh employees of Central Public Sector Undertakings took VRS. In addition, about 1.02 lakh employees of Public Sector Banks took VRS, as on 31.3.2003. During 2003, till date, 1541 employees of the insurance sector have been separted through VRS. Besides this, during 1998 till 2003 (January-September), 4203 workers of Public Sector Undertakings were retrenched.

Exemption of exporters from Labour Laws

1797. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's position on exempting the rigid labour laws at least for exporters;

(b) the details of the recommendations of the Committee constituted for the above purpose; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statutory dues of CPSU employees

1798. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total statutory dues like P.F., Gratuity, VRS dues, Salary, etc. payable to employees of CPSU, as on date; and

(b) the time-bound action-plan to liquidate the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) The total outstanding statutory dues except gratuity, payable to employees to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSU) were Rs. 1904.77 crore, as on 31.12.2002. The gratuity dues were 11.66 crore as on 31.3.2003.

(b) The Government has directed CPSUs to clear outstanding statutory dues of their employees in a time-bound manner.